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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

KRISHNAN, SUMATI

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 2875 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/824,769

Applicant(s)

ITOH, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Sumati Krishnan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 27-29 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 and 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

It is the opinion of the office that Yano's threaded holes 1b qualify as the claimed "nuts mounted through the thin metallic frame by being directly threaded." Therefore, claims 1, 27-29 and 32 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 27-29, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano et al (US 6594143).

In regard to claim 1, Yano discloses a display device comprising a display portion (see figure 6), the display portion including electronic parts (see for example, panels 6 and 9) for driving the display portion through external signals, which are located inside of the display portion, mechanical parts (see for example back frame 8) for fixing the electronic parts to specified positions within the display portion, see column 8 lines 22-40, wherein the mechanical parts comprise at least a frame, (element 8) and nuts (threaded hole, elements 1b) mounted

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through the thin metallic frame (threaded holes extend through the frame, see fig. 6), by being caulked or by being directly threaded (Yano's nuts are directly threaded).

Yano does not disclose the back frame 8 being a thin metallic frame. However, it is well known in the art to use a thin metallic frame as the frame for the LCD display module. Also, since weight of the display device is increasingly becoming an issue in the art, thinner metals are increasingly being used in order to provide lighter display devices. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a thin metal as the material for the back frame 8 of Yano.

Regarding claim 27, Yano discloses the display device of claim 1, wherein the nuts are designed to mount the display device (figure 6) to an external device (see bottom frame, element 2, as shown in figure 5).

Regarding claims 28-29, Yano's nuts are designed to mount a predetermined accessory part (bottom frame 2) to a rear surface of the display device, see figure 5.

Regarding claim 32, Yano does not explicitly disclose displaying of images by any other method other than birefringence of liquid crystal. However, it is well known in the art to employ an electron-emitting device, a display device utilizing plasma discharge, a device using electroluminescence, minute pixels disposed in an array manner and electron guns disposed to correspond to each of the pixels, and minute optical reflectors (known as digital micro-mirror devices) disposed in an array as the means for emitting light. Applicant has not disclosed how the invention depends on utilizing specifically one of the above devices. The result of each of these methods are the same, to enable an image to display on the screen. Therefore, it would

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have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use any one of these methods as the method of display.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 –7 and 9-26 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record neither shows nor suggests a screw inserting portion of the nuts exposed to an outer surface of the display portion of the display device, nor the nuts mounted to a lateral surface of the display device.

Claims 30-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record neither shows nor suggests the accessory part as claimed in claim 28 being an electrical circuit part.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumati Krishnan whose telephone number is 703-305-7906. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 703-305-4939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

SK


Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800